

MAGOFFIN HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

El Paso, Texas

Pre-Visit Guide

High School

Overview: A Destiny Fulfilled

In this lesson, students will explore primary resources to learn about the role of the Magoffin family in the support and construction of railroad lines that led to the rapid urbanization of El Paso in the late 1800s.

U.S. History Since 1877 TEKS

(3) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in the United States from 1877 to 1898. The student is expected to:

(B) analyze economic issues such as industrialization, the growth of railroads, the growth of labor unions, farm issues, the cattle industry boom, the rise of entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and the pros and cons of big business;

(C) analyze social issues affecting women, minorities, children, immigrants, urbanization, the Social Gospel, and philanthropy of industrialists.

(29) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) use a variety of both primary and secondary valid sources to acquire information and to analyze and answer historical questions;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;

(D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence;

(H) use appropriate skills to analyze and interpret social studies information such as maps, graphs, presentations, speeches, lectures, and political cartoons.

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- **Magoffin's Early Years** and **All (Rail)Roads Lead to El Paso** primary source activity materials
- Magoffin Home State Historic Site introductory video <https://youtu.be/gEaU653U03A>

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Vocabulary

- **urban:** typical or characteristic of a city, as opposed to rural/country
- **urbanization:** the process of becoming a city or taking on an urban way of life

Historical Context

The coming of the railroad is known to be the single most impactful development in the history of El Paso. The railroads caused a boom in population, industry, and politics by bringing people and goods to and through El Paso from the eastern and western United States and from Mexico.

Upon his father's death in 1868, Joseph Magoffin moved with his family to El Paso to claim his land inheritance. Joseph Magoffin and his family gained wealth and influence in early El Paso through the sale of holdings, which included 1,280 acres (including Magoffinsville and the future site of the Magoffin home in the El Paso area), over 600 acres southeast of El Paso, and acreage in Canutillo and Presidio Counties.

Prior to arriving in El Paso, Magoffin had lived in cities that experienced a railroad boom. He had seen the advantages that the rail industry brought to cities and investors long before El Paso's first train arrived in 1881. Railroad development brought new money, new industry, and urbanization to El Paso, transforming it from a rural frontier village into a diverse border city. With his extensive landholdings, Magoffin was prominent among the El Paso railroad boosters or supporters. Almost every rail company had to buy land from Magoffin to build their lines through El Paso. In 1880-1881, these transactions brought the family over \$19,000, more than \$400,000 in today's money.

Activity: El Paso Then and Now

10 minutes

- Display/distribute Augustus Koch's 1886 **bird's-eye view map** of El Paso and the **Google Earth 3D image**. Point out the location of the Magoffin home on both maps. [On the 1886 map, the Magoffin home is an L-shaped building east of the city on Magoffin Street. The home is surrounded by a large orchard of fruit trees. The Texas & Pacific Rail Station is three blocks north of the Magoffin home.]
- Give students five minutes to compare and contrast the images. What landmarks, geographic features, etc. have changed and what features have remained the same?
 - Differences may include the modernization of the city buildings; overall expansion of the city's footprint.
 - Similarities may include the presence of the Rio Grande River, the bridges spanning the river, and the two rail yards in the city.

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Activity: The Magoffins and El Paso

10 minutes

- View the Magoffin Home introductory video found at youtu.be/gEaU653U03A. Tell students they may take notes in order to answer questions following the video.
- After the video, ask:
 - Where was Joseph Magoffin born? (Mexico)
 - From whom did Joseph inherit the land in El Paso? (his father)
 - In what year did Joseph and Octavia move into the El Paso home? (1877)
 - What type of agriculture surrounded the Magoffin home? (fruit orchards)
 - The Magoffin home is the oldest surviving structure of what kind in the region? (adobe)
 - The home is one of the best examples of what southwest architectural style? (territorial)
 - How many generations of the Magoffin family lived in the home? (four)
 - What other interesting facts did you learn? (answers will vary)

Primary Source Activity: All (Rail)Roads Lead to El Paso

30 minutes

- Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
- Explain that in this activity, students will study primary source documents to explore the impact of the railroad on El Paso's growth in the late 1880s.
- Distribute the **El Paso population growth chart**, **1885 Texas Business Directory article**, **1883 Texas railroad system map**, **Texas city population growth chart**, and the **railroad activity worksheet**. After the activity is completed, share responses and check for accuracy.
- If possible, provide an enlarged or electronic image of the 1883 railroad system map as students will need to read small text in tables to answer the questions.

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Answer Key:

1. 104,813 miles
2. Other large railroad cities, including El Paso, have rail lines approaching from almost every direction, creating a web of lines meeting in those cities. Austin and Galveston, comparatively, have limited rail access. Discussion extension: Could this limitation have affected industrial development in these towns in the following decades?
3. Both cities have international rails leading into Mexico. El Paso's and San Antonio's economies benefited from the sale of Mexican goods brought into the U.S. as well as shipment and sale of U.S. goods in Mexico. These U.S. cities were important connections for people traveling to and from Mexico.
4. Gulf of Mexico
5. Railroad Construction in the United States (top left), List of Railroad Towns in Texas (bottom left)
6. Southern Pacific
7. 1285 miles
8. mountains
9. Texas and Pacific
10. Texarkana, Dallas, Fort Worth

City	1883 Pop.	1920 Pop.	Growth Rate
Austin	15,540	34,876	1.24
Dallas	20,152	158,976	6.89
El Paso	3,029	77,560	24.61
Fort Worth	15,050	106,482	6.08
Galveston	34,297	44,255	0.29
Houston	24,500	138,276	4.64
San Antonio	30,187	161,379	4.35

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Resource Image: Portrait of Joseph Magoffin

Portrait of Joseph Magoffin, c1870s. Courtesy of Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



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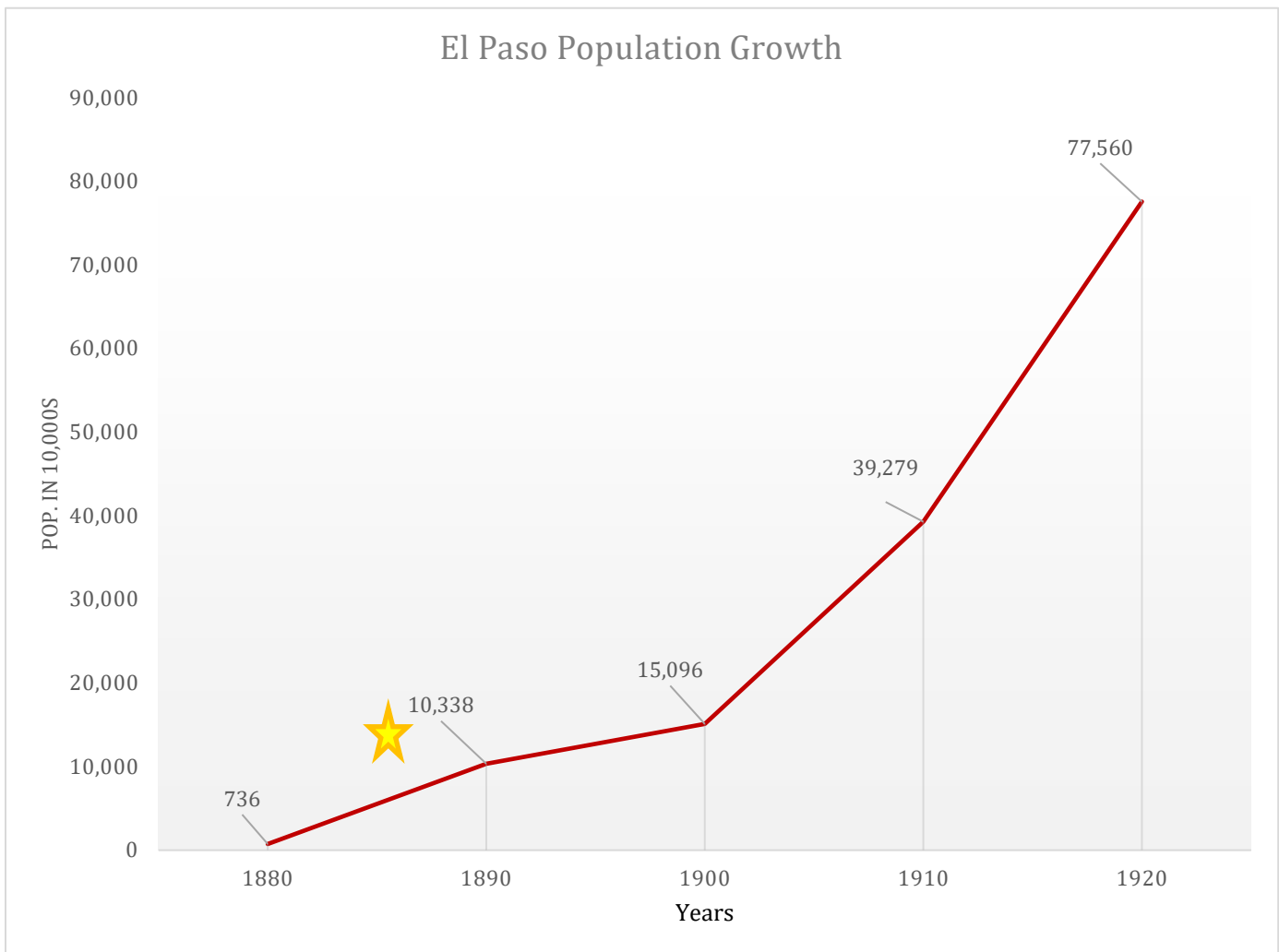
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Resource Image: El Paso Population Growth Graph



Population data from the *Texas Almanac*, available online at <http://texasalmanac.com/sites/default/files/images/CityPopHist%20web.pdf>.

Star indicates the arrival of the railroad in El Paso.

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Resource Images: El Paso Railway Stations



Union Depot in El Paso

Citation: [Train Depot in El Paso, Texas], Photograph, Date unknown. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting The Grace Museum, texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph822606/. (Accessed July 15, 2017).



Texas and Pacific Railway Station

Citation: DeGolyer, Everett L. [Texas and Pacific Railway Station, El Paso, Texas], b&w film, ca. 1960s-1970s. DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, SMU Central University Libraries flickr photostream, (Accessed September 30, 2017).

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Activity Image: Bird's Eye View Map of El Paso

Augustus Koch (1840–?). *Bird's Eye View of El Paso, El Paso County Texas*, 1886. Lithograph, 20 x 30 in. Lithographer unknown.



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Activity Image: Google 3D View of El Paso



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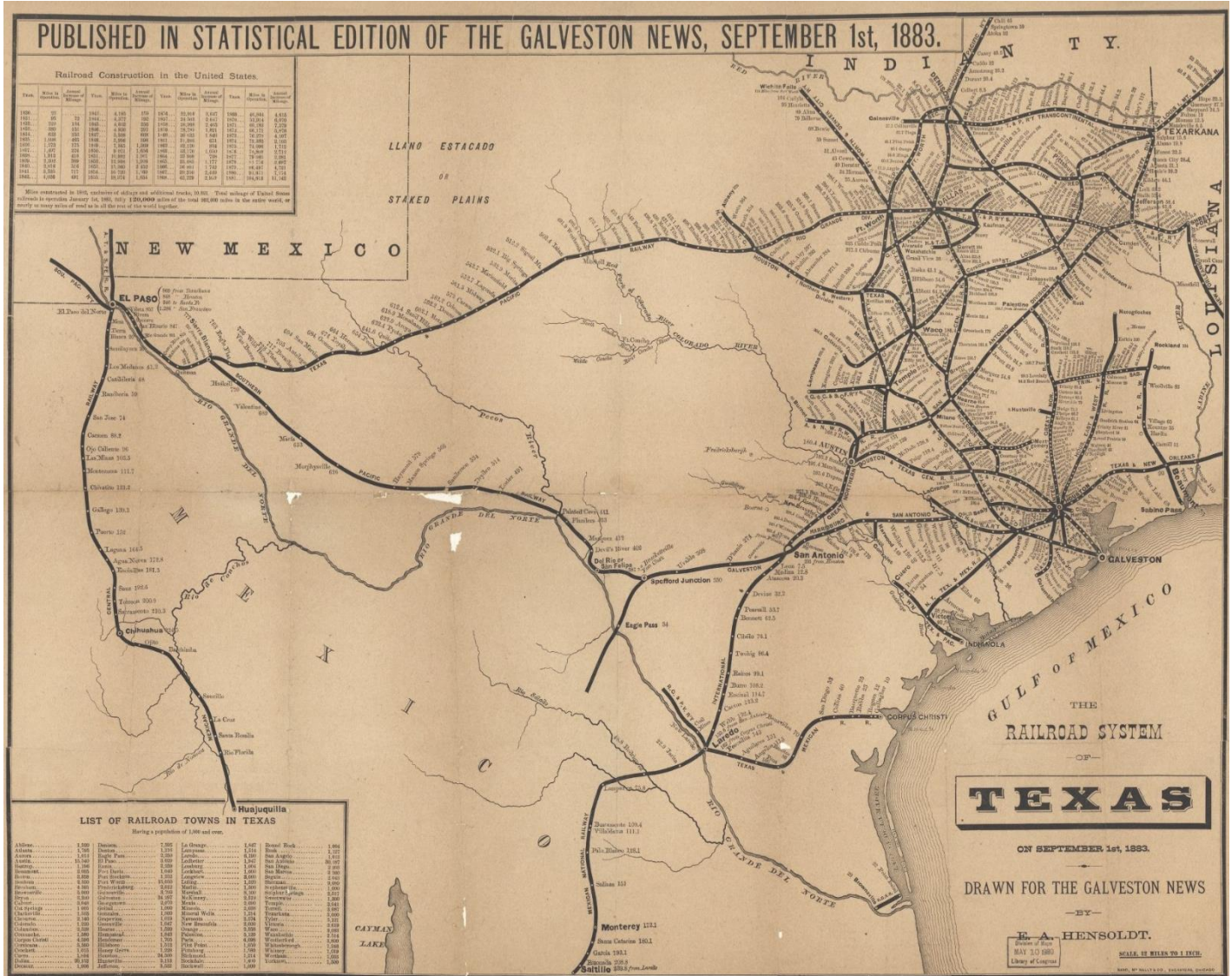
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Primary Source Activity: Texas Railroad System Map, 1883

Hensoldt, E. A., and Rand McNally and Company. *The railroad system of Texas on September 1st, 1883*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., engravers, 1883. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001622093/>. (Accessed July 25, 2017).



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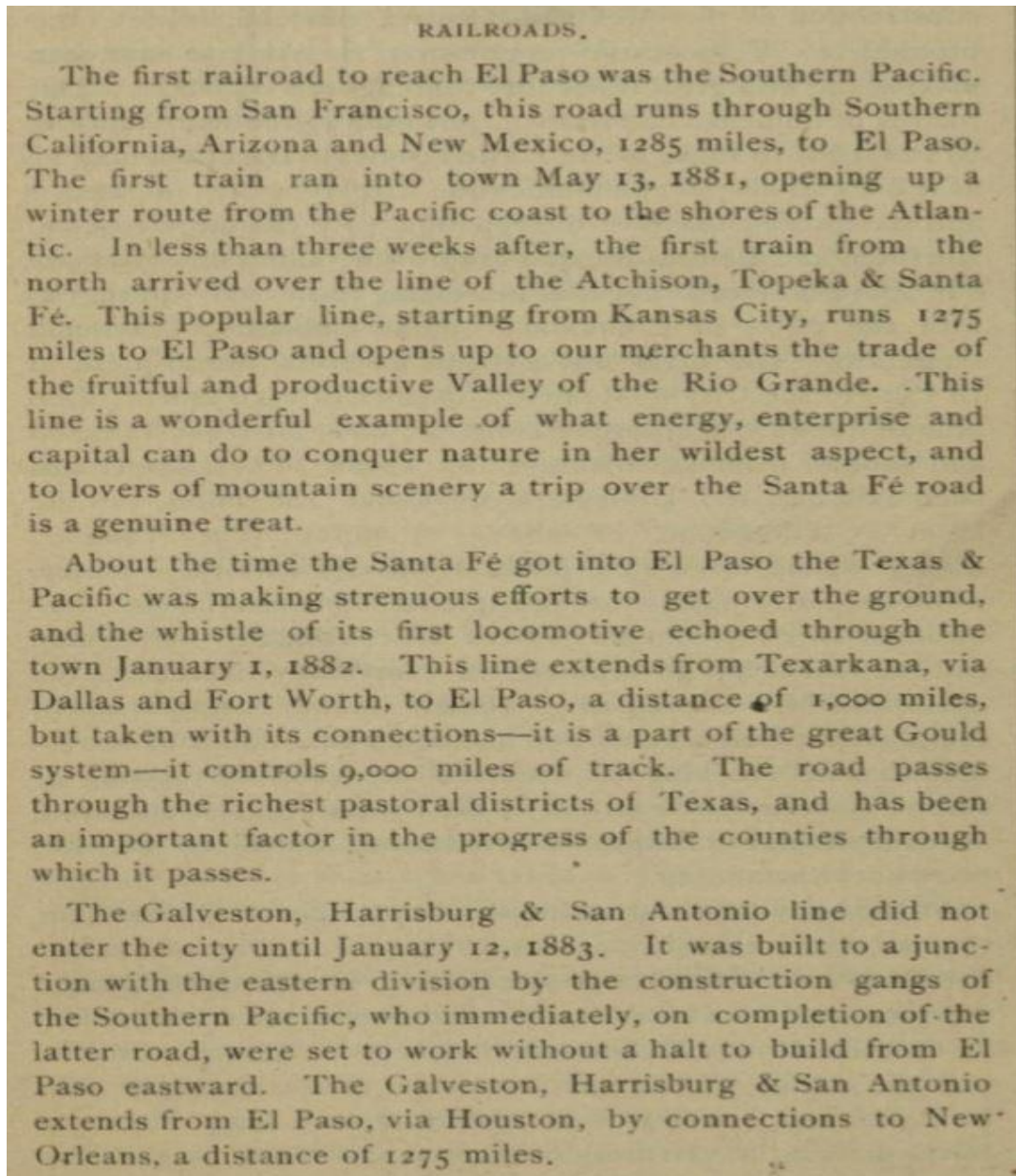
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Primary Source Activity Image: Mexico Business Directory, 1885

[El Paso, Texas and Paso del Norte, Mexico Business Directory for 1885], Book, 1885. University of North Texas Libraries, *The Portal to Texas History*, [texashistory.unt.edu](https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph213965/m1/7/), <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph213965/m1/7/>. (Accessed July 15, 2017).



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Primary Source Activity: Texas Cities Population Growth Chart

Texas Almanac

Calculate the growth rate for the following cities from 1883 to 1920 using the following formula:

$$\text{Growth Rate} = \frac{\text{Present} - \text{Past}}{\text{Past}}$$

City	1883 Pop.	1920 Pop.	Growth Rate
Austin	15,540	34,876	1.24
Dallas	20,152	158,976	
El Paso	3,029	77,560	
Fort Worth	15,050	106,482	
Galveston	34,297	44,255	
Houston	24,500	138,276	
San Antonio	30,187	161,379	

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Primary Source Activity: All (Rail)Roads Lead to El Paso

Use the primary sources to answer the questions.

Texas Railroad System Map 1883

1. Using the “Railroad Construction in the United States” table in the top left corner, how many miles of rail were in operation in 1881?
2. How are the rail lines of Austin and Galveston different from those of the other large cities?
3. What do El Paso and San Antonio have in common regarding railways? How might this affect their economies and societies?
4. What large body of water is shown on this map?
5. What other table of information is included on this map?

Mexico Business Directory Article 1885

6. According to the article, what was the first railroad to reach El Paso?
7. How many miles long is the Southern Pacific railroad from its start to El Paso?

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8. On the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, what scenery would travelers see on their way from Kansas City to El Paso?
9. What railroad arrived in El Paso in 1882?
10. What three other cities were on Texas and Pacific route to El Paso?

Texas Cities Population Growth Chart

Complete the activity using the separate worksheet.

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Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 915-533-5147.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visitmagoffinhome.com>.

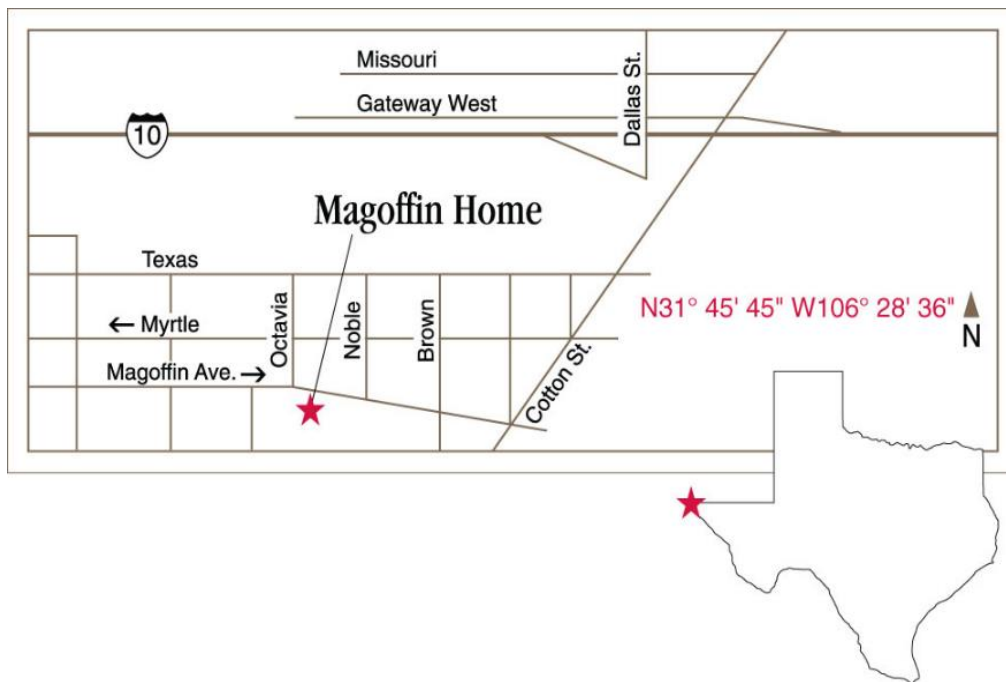
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